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THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, JULY 17, 1988

## U.S. Says Pakistan Cut Back on Afghan Arms

By ROBERT PEAR

Special to The New York Times

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The officials said there were two reasons for the cutback: The guerrillas already have large amounts of weapons, and the United States does not want the guerrillas to harass Soviet troops so much that the Soviet Army delays its withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Pakistan has been the main conduit for delivery of American weapons to the Islamic guerrillas for eight years. But neither the United States nor Paki-

stan publicly acknowledged the program.

The Soviet Union began to pull out of Afghanistan on May 15. Under agreements signed in Geneva on April 14, the Soviets were supposed to withdraw half of their 115,000 troops by Aug. 15 and the remainder by Feb. 15. The guerrillas did not sign the agreements and have continued fighting in an effort to topple the Kabul Government.

### Rebel Efforts Seen as Slowing

Andrew L. Eiva, a lobbyist here for the Afghan guerrillas, said the cutback of two key weapons, Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and long-range mortars, had hobbled the guerrillas' combat

operations and "gravely endangers Afghan efforts to free their country from Communist control."

Zalmay Khalilzad, a State Department official, said in June that the Kabul Government was "crumbling fast," and he noted that the guerrillas had captured more than two dozen garrisons. But in recent weeks, the progress of the guerrilla campaign appears to have slowed. The insurgents have so far failed in their effort to take Kandahar, the second largest city in Afghanistan.

Mr. Eiva, the chairman of the Federation for American Afghan Action, which lobbies for military aid to the

guerrillas said that "the Administration should not blame Pakistan for the cutback" in deliveries of weapons. "In fact," he said, "officials from the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency stymied military and diplomatic support for the Afghan resistance this spring and summer."

An Administration official acknowledged today that "there has been a reduction in the amount of arms going across the border" from Pakistan to Afghanistan. But he said the guerrillas "still have a huge amount of arms," having stockpiled weapons that they received from the United States or captured from Soviet forces or from Afghan Government troops.

### Guerrillas Called Well Supplied

The official said the United States could increase shipments of arms to

the guerrillas "through the usual supply routes" in Pakistan, if the guerrillas needed such assistance.

A State Department spokesman said: "United States assistance to the Afghan resistance has not been halted. The resistance is well supplied to carry on its struggle."

"The U.S. position is that assistance to the resistance should continue unless the Soviets agree to stop assistance to the illegitimate Kabul regime," the spokesman added. "They have not done so."

Paul Theofanous, a student of Soviet military affairs who returned this week from a trip to Afghanistan, said, "The supply of heavy weapons to the mujahedeen from Pakistan is definitely declining." From his observations, he said the guerrillas had "rela-

tively few Stingers, heavy mortars, recoilless rifles or artillery pieces."

As a result, he said, "it would be very difficult for the mujahedeen to mount a successful offensive against Jalalabad or other positions held by the Soviets and the Afghan Army at this time."

Under an agreement signed in Geneva in April, Pakistan and Afghanistan promised to refrain from interference in each other's internal affairs. Under the agreement, each country is obliged to prevent the use of its territory for activity that would "undermine the stability" of the other.

The Afghan Government has filed 46 memorandums with the United Nations accusing Pakistan of violating the Geneva accords by allowing the shipment of weapons through its territory. A special United Nations mission in Kabul is looking into the charges.

SATURDAY JUL 16 1988

THE WASHINGTON POST

# Pakistan Halts Arms For Afghans

## U.S. Approves Action On Rebels Under Pact For Soviet Withdrawal

By David B. Ottaway  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Pakistan, under heavy Soviet and U.N. pressure and with U.S. approval, has halted the flow of almost all arms provided by the United States to the Afghan resistance, according to administration sources.

The sources cited a "significant reduction" in arms crossing the border from Pakistan into Afghanistan since mid-June and said little more than small arms and ammunition still reaches the resistance.

The supply of U.S.-made Stinger antiaircraft missiles and such heavy arms as mortars, has virtually stopped, they said.

The Pakistani decision came after the Reagan administration urged Pakistan to cooperate with U.N. attempts to monitor implementation of accords signed April 14 in Geneva by the Soviet Union, United States, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

"The Pakistanis are trying to be cooperative with" the U.N. Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP), a U.S. official said. "We told them they have a commitment to meet."

The decision also came after Soviet officials complained bitterly about Pakistani and U.S. violations of the accords and threatened to slow withdrawal of their 100,000 to 115,000 troops from Afghanistan. As of late June, 23,000 had left, according to Soviet military officials.

Some U.S. officials expressed concern that the Soviets might not meet their interim goal of a 50 percent reduction by Aug. 15 because of repeated guerrilla attacks on their forces. The administration regards the 50 percent mark as the point of no return for a total pullout.

The accords provide for withdrawal of all Soviet troops from Afghanistan by Feb. 15 although the Soviets have said they expect to complete the process by Dec. 31.

The accords also stipulate an end to outside interference in Afghan internal affairs and to support of the guerrillas by Pakistani, U.S. and

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other military interests. UNGOMAP, a 50-person group of observers from several nations, was established to monitor their implementation.

However, at the time of the signing, the United States and Pakistan reserved the right to continue supplying the resistance if the Soviets also continued arming the Afghan government. The administration nonetheless agreed to act as "a guarantor" of the accords.

The Senate passed a resolution, 77 to 0, Feb. 29 stating that the administration "should not cease, suspend, diminish or otherwise restrict" military aid to the rebels until it was "absolutely clear" that the Soviets had ended their occupation and that the resistance was "well enough equipped to maintain its integrity" during the transition to a new government.

U.N. Undersecretary General Diego Cordovez, who has just returned from a round of shuttle diplomacy between Kabul and Islamabad, reported last Saturday on his trip and mutual accusations of violations, saying that Pakistan and Afghanistan had agreed to "turn the page" and "start afresh" on implementing the accords.

"I have received from the governments of Pakistan and Afghanistan very categorical and unmistakable assurances of their determination to carry out fully and in good faith the obligations set out in the Geneva accords," he reported.

Cordovez also said "a number of changes" were being introduced to improve the functioning of UNGOMAP, whose observers have been blocked by Pakistan from visiting the border area to investigate alleged Pakistani violations of the accords, according to the Kabul government.

The changes include establishment of two military outposts on the border and "full access" to airports to monitor more closely the Soviet withdrawal, Cordovez said.

Cordovez said he has proposed to the resistance and the government a "cooling-off period" to be followed Sept. 1 by a de facto cease-fire and establishment of a "national government for peace and reconstruction."

Such an interim government would comprise "Afghans of recognized independence and impartiality" chosen by both sides, and its main purpose would be to prepare for convening a "loya jirga," a meeting of all Afghan leaders, by next March 1 to form a new government.

Neither side has expressed interest in such an interim "neutral" government, U.S. officials said.

Administration sources said the Pakistani arms cutoff began to take effect after repeated Soviet and Afghan government charges that Pakistan has been violating the accords.

As of July 12, the Kabul government had filed 46 memorandums with UNGOMAP charging Pakistan with at least 250 violations of the accords, which formally took effect May 15. The alleged violations concerned transit of weapons and armed groups into Afghanistan from Pakistan.

It was not immediately clear what impact the arms cutoff might have on the resistance and its current offensive to seize several major provincial centers and provoke the government's downfall.

Recently, the resistance has suffered several setbacks on the ground, failing to take garrisons and towns it was targeting or being forced to withdraw from several after initially seizing control.

Statements by several resistance leaders in April that they would have control by June of Jalalabad or Kandahar, two major provincial capitals, proved overambitious.

U.S. officials said the resistance was well-supplied with arms and had captured a huge quantity of Soviet weapons from garrisons abandoned by the Afghan army since mid-April.

"They're flush," one U.S. official said of the guerrillas.

Rep. Charles Wilson (D-Tex.), a leading supporter of the resistance, said he agreed. But he also said he was unaware of an arms cutoff.

Andrew Eiva, chairman of the Federation of American Afghan Action, expressed concern about the reported halt.

He said the resistance lacks the kind of weapons needed for large-scale offensives against major centers and Afghan government garrisons.

He cited the Spanish-made M84 120-mm. heavy mortar, which the United States was to start sending the resistance last fall to aid in attacking garrisons. He said only six of the mortars had been bought by the Defense Department on a trial basis and actually reached the resistance.

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